



CITY OF LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF HEALTH

July 18, 2018

A meeting of the Lowell Board of Health was held on Wednesday, July 18, 2108 in the Mayor's Reception Room, City Hall, 375 Merrimack St., Lowell, MA 01852. Chairwoman Jo-Ann Keegan called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

Present:

Jo-Ann Keegan, RN, MSN, Chairperson
John Donovan, DC, Board Member
William Galvin, MD, Board Member
Lisa Golden, RN, MSN, Board Member

7/18/18 MINUTES

1. New Business

1.I. For Acceptance: Minutes Of The June 6, 2018 Meeting Of The Board Of Health.
The minutes of the June 6, 2018 meeting of the Board of Health were reviewed by the Board.

Motion: To amend item I.VIII paragraph 2, 3rd and 4th sentences to read "The Board requested to receive reports on the process of the program. Ms. Vigroux will give updates to the Board" and to accept the minutes as revised made by William Galvin, seconded by Lisa Golden. All in favor.

1.II. For Review: Tobacco Control Monthly Report Submitted By Cesar Pungirum, Program Director.

Mr. Pungirum discussed the recent Youth Compliance Check inspections. Three establishments failed their compliance check. Two have paid the fine and will be scheduled for a Permit Suspension Hearing at the September 5, 2018 meeting. The third establishment chose to appeal their ticket for allowing entry of a minor to the District Court.

Mr. Pungirum reviewed the monthly report with the Board which was accepted and placed on file.

1.III. For Review: Monthly Development Services Report submitted By Shawn Machado, Sr. Sanitary Code Inspector.

Mr. Shawn Machado, Sr. Sanitary Code Inspector, introduced himself to the Board.

The Board noted again that some establishment inspections are not being conducted in a timely manner. Mr. Machado will address this issue.

Chairwoman Keegan inquired about the pickup of used needles. Mr. Machado informed the Board that the City is working on the issue and he will speak to Mr. Slagle for an update.

The Board had no further questions.

1.IV. Communication: From Mr. Geoffrey Koetsch, Merrimack Valley Sierra Club Team Coordinator.
Communication from Mr. Geoffrey Koetsch regarding natural gas pipelines in Massachusetts.

Mr. Geoffrey Koetsch spoke to the Board regarding natural gas pipelines in Massachusetts and his request for a letter of support for Community Health Assessments prior to expansion of any pipelines. Several sample letters from various communities were provided to the Board.

The following members of the Public also spoke in support of the request:

Nancy Greene - Lowell, MA spoke in support and about her concerns about the chemicals in fracked gas coming from Pennsylvania. Board Member William Galvin asked if gas transported by trucks was "cleaner" than gas that piped. Ms. Greene indicated that there is no way to remove the chemicals from fracked gas.

Suzanne Hitchcock-Bryan - Winthrop, MA spoke to the Board about promoting renewable energy sources and that National Grid statistics state 80% of gas is fracked. Ms. Hitchcock-Bryan indicated that the letter is in support of Community Health Assessments prior to any expansion of a gas pipeline and asked the Board to support the letter with the other 70 communities that have already done so. .

Susan Redlich - Cambridge, MA spoke to the Board in support of the Community Health Assessments letter which would support baseline monitoring of new infrastructure using existing conditions as the baseline and other studies would be looked at for risk assessments for potential health risks.

Marc Grant - Chelmsford, MA spoke to the Board regarding supporting the request and letters of support issued by Boston, Worcester, Springfield and other communities.

Motion: To draft a letter to Governor Baker following the one done by Worcester, MA for the September 5, 2018 meeting made by William Galvin, seconded by Lisa Golden. All in favor.

1.V. For Review: Trinity EMS, Inc Reports.
The Board accepted and placed on file.

1.VI. Communications: Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Program.
The Board accepted and placed on file.

2. Old Business

3. Director's Report

3.I. Update: Departmental and Divisional Reports and Updates

Chairwoman Keegan requested a status update on the revised Service Zone Plan for the next meeting.

The Board noted the increase in the number of Year to Date TB and Hepatitis B & C cases.

Motion: For Substance Abuse Coordinator Lainnie Emond to attend the September 5, 2018 meeting to give a progress reports on the various opioid grants activities made by William Galvin, seconded by Lisa Golden. All in favor.

3.II. Motion: To Adjourn.

Motion: To adjourn at 7:08 PM made by William Galvin, seconded by Lisa Golden. All in Favor

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE CITY OF LOWELL BOARD OF HEALTH WILL BE HELD ON
SEPTEMBER 5, 2018 AT 6:00 PM IN THE MAYOR'S RECEPTION ROOM.**



CITY OF WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS
Department of Health & Human Services
Division of Public Health



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Matilde Castiel, MD
Health & Human Services
Commissioner

Karyn E. Clark
Public Health
Director

Governor Charles Baker
Massachusetts State House
24 Beacon Street
Room 280
Boston, MA 02133
Attention: Governor's Office

Both
HANDOUT
7-18-18

Dear Governor Baker,

The Worcester Board of Health joins 67 other local health boards in urging you to require an independent health impact assessment prior to authorization of any natural gas infrastructure project in the Commonwealth.

Natural gas flowing through pipelines contains volatile contaminants, such as benzene and formaldehyde, which can cause human illnesses, even at low concentrations. Releases are routine, whether from leaks or maintenance. The Commonwealth has an obligation to protect the health of its citizens; yet, the potential health effects of natural gas pipelines are not being examined.

More effective regulation of existing natural gas pipelines to minimize adverse health effects is needed. In addition, health impact assessments should be required before any new pipeline authorization occurs. This perspective is shared by national health organizations, including the American Medical Association:

"Our AMA recognizes the potential impact on human health associated with natural gas infrastructure and supports legislation that would require a comprehensive Health Impact Assessment regarding the risks that may be associated with natural gas pipelines."
(Resolution H- 135.930)

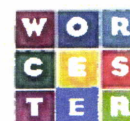
The Massachusetts Medical Society (MMS) has adopted the following policies:

1. That the MMS recognizes the potential impact on human health associated with natural gas infrastructure. (HP)
2. That the MMS advocate to appropriate agencies and the Massachusetts state legislature to require ongoing independent Comprehensive Health Impact Assessments to assess the



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Gas is the Past!

Natural gas carries risks to our health and our planet

POH Handout
7-18-18



Cooking with gas can harm children

Cooking with gas releases fumes into your kitchen. Both unburned gas and burned (combusted) gas release toxic chemicals into the air in your home.

These chemicals include lead, chromium, benzene, hexane, formaldehyde, and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂).¹ All of these are harmful to human health.

Many people think that the vent over their stove is just for removing cooking odors, but it's actually very important to turn on the fan whenever cooking with gas to remove the toxic chemicals from the air in your home.

Using gas to cook makes children more susceptible to respiratory infections and worsens asthma, especially in homes that aren't properly ventilated.

Here's the research:

A nationally-representative study of US children described increased prevalence of asthma, chronic bronchitis, and wheezing among children whose parents reported using a gas stove without ventilation.²

A similar study found that the prevalence of pneumonia and coughing in younger children was higher in families who cooked and heated their homes with gas stoves.³

Another analysis of 41 studies found a 32% increased risk of asthma among children in homes where gas was used for cooking.⁴

Nitrogen dioxide is well studied, harmful to children, and significantly higher in homes with gas stoves.^{5,6} In a combined analysis of 11 pediatric studies, researchers concluded that a long-term increase of 15 parts per billion of NO₂ (about the difference between cooking with gas versus electric) increased the risk of respiratory illnesses such as asthma by 20%.⁷

In Massachusetts, researchers also found a "dose-response" relationship between the amount of NO₂ exposure (the "dose") and the asthma severity of children (the "response"). The more NO₂, the worse the asthma.⁸

Fracking contaminates air & water

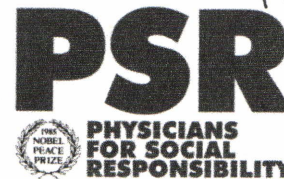
In Massachusetts, more than half of the gas we use is mined through hydraulic fracturing, also known as fracking.⁹ Fracking contaminates local air and water.

Living near a fracking site is associated with higher rates of asthma as well as premature and low birth-weight babies¹⁰ who have long-term health risks and medical costs.

By reducing our consumption of gas, we can help protect these communities.

Why getting off of gas matters:

- Healthier kids
- Cleaner air and water
- A more livable, stable climate

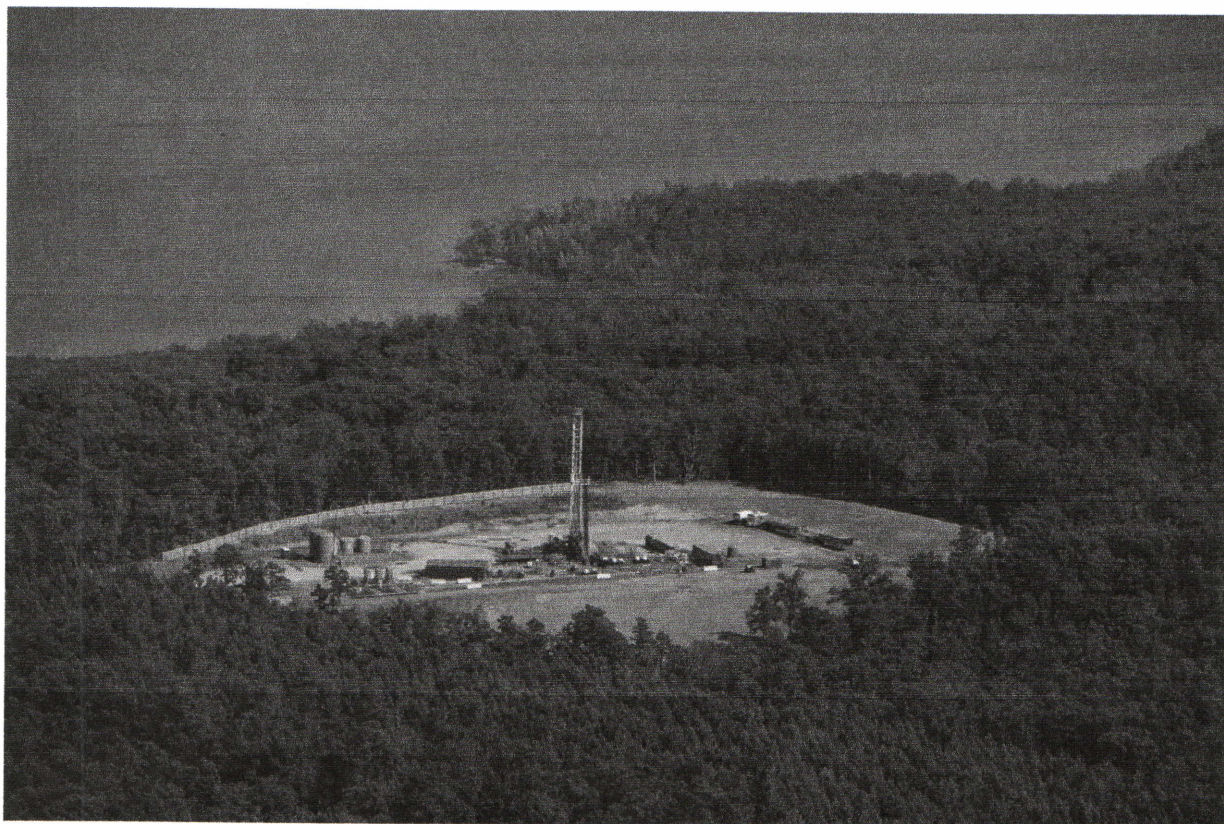


BoH
7-18-18
Handout

Compendium of Scientific, Medical, and Media Findings Demonstrating Risks and Harms of Fracking (Unconventional Gas and Oil Extraction)

Fifth Edition

March 2018



Fracking industry site near Greers Ferry Lake in Quitman, Arkansas in the Fayetteville Shale region. ©2014 Julie Dermansky